AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1 - 20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (New):   A first apparatus comprising:

one or more buffers;

a kernel agent;

a first interface to issue one or more commands to the kernel agent to initiate establishment of a connection between the first apparatus and a second apparatus, and to post one or more data transfer requests to one or more queues; and

a second interface capable of, in response to the one or more data transfer requests, at least one of issuing data from the one or more buffers to the second apparatus and transferring data received from the second apparatus to the one or more buffers.

Claim 22 (New): The first apparatus of claim 21, wherein:

the first interface comprises a virtual interface; and

the second interface comprises a network interface.

Claim 23 (New): The first apparatus of claim 21, wherein:

the second interface comprises a channel adapter.

Claim 24 (New): The first apparatus of claim 21, wherein:

the first apparatus is capable of being coupled via the second interface to a fabric coupled to the second apparatus.

Claim 25 (New): A method comprising:

if a number of available credits is at least sufficient to permit a transfer of data to occur, transferring the data from a first device to a second device; and

if the number of available credits is not sufficient to permit the transfer to occur, waiting for a change in the number of available credits to occur prior to transferring the data from the first device to the second device.

Claim 26 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein:

the number of available credits represents one or more buffers available to store the data.

Claim 27 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein:

the first device comprises a node; and

the second device comprises a host.

Claim 28 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein:

the number of available credits is represented by a value stored in the first device; and

the method also comprises changing the value in response to a write operation issued from the second device.

Claim 29 (New): The method of claim 28, wherein:

the write operation comprises a remote direct memory access (RDMA) operation.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 25, wherein:

the first device comprises:

a first interface to issue one or more commands to initiate establishment of a connection between the first device and the second device, and to post one or more data transfer requests to one or more queues; and

a second interface capable of, in response to the one or more data transfer requests, issuing the data from one or more buffers to the second device.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 30, wherein:

the first interface comprises a virtual interface; and

the second interface comprises a network interface.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 30, wherein:

the first interface is capable of issuing the one or more commands to a kernel agent.